



ST JUST
PENZANCE
CORNWALL
TR19 7HX
Tel: 01736 788306
Fax: 01736 786288

01 June 2020

To: The patients of Cape Cornwall Surgery

RE: MERGER OF CAPE CORNWALL SURGERY

I am writing to inform you that the Partners of Cape Cornwall Surgery have reached an agreement with the Partners of Alverton Practice to merge Cape Cornwall Surgery with Alverton Practice.

The decision to merge with Alverton Practice has been taken after a number of months of discussion between the two Practices during which time the benefits of a merger to both Practices have become clear.

Alverton Practice is a GP Surgery with four Partners that have been rated by the Care Quality Commission as **Outstanding**. Alverton Practice is one of the three GP Practices that reside within the newly built St Clare Medical Centre, Penzance.

Why is your Surgery merging?

NHS England has for a number of years questioned the viability of small GP Practices. In particular their ability to be able to employ the range of skills required from both clinical and non-clinical staff to meet the ever increasing and complex requirements of providing Primary Healthcare to patients.

The 'message' from NHS England has been that small Practices (Cape Cornwall is classified as a small Practice because of its registered population) should seek to merge and work at scale (both through Practice mergers and Primary Care Networks) to ensure that patients have ready access to a full range of clinical services and skills.

What are the key benefits of a merger for Cape Cornwall Surgery?

Cape Cornwall Surgery has struggled to both provide and maintain service levels over the past two years and have only been able to do so by significant use of Locum Staff. For Cape Cornwall Surgery this situation is unsustainable long-term both from an operational and financial perspective. The merger will:

- Guarantee the future of Cape Cornwall Surgery and the Partnership will be strengthened. Cape Cornwall Surgery will be part of a GP Practice with 6 Partners who all have a range of skills and experience.
- Provide a much larger clinical team with a broader skill mix, which will ensure that clinical service delivery for the patients of Cape Cornwall Surgery can be maintained and enhanced to support the community in the future.
- Alverton Surgery is very proactive as a Training Practice for GP Registrars, Medical Students, Practice Nurses and Physician Associates. Cape Cornwall Surgery will benefit by being able to provide more training at Cape Cornwall Surgery and these trainees often provide the clinical staff for the future.

What will it mean for me as a Patient of Cape Cornwall Surgery?

- The Cape Cornwall Surgery premises at St Just will remain open and current opening hours of Cape Cornwall Surgery will be unchanged.
- Patients at Cape Cornwall Surgery, post-merger, will also now be able to see a Doctor, Nurse or other member of the Clinical Team at St Clare Medical centre if they so choose.
- The range of clinical Services being provided by our Clinical Staff (Doctors and Nurses) will not change but will be enhanced in the future.
- The service being provided by our Dispensary will not change.

Does the Cape Cornwall Surgery Patient Group support the merger?

Your Patient Participation Group (PPG) has been fully informed of the merger and the reasons for it and they are fully supportive. Over the coming months there is a lot of work that must be undertaken by the Partners and Management of both Surgeries to merge the two Surgeries. Surgery Staff and the PPG will be fully informed and engaged throughout this 'journey'.

When will the two Surgeries be formally merged?

Our aim is for Cape Cornwall Surgery and Alverton Practice to be formally merged as one Surgery for NHS Contract purposes by 1st April 2021

Do you have concerns or ideas for service improvement?

Should you have any concerns about the merger please contact us by e-mail or post; see below.

The forthcoming merger of Cape Cornwall Surgery and Alverton Practice give us a unique opportunity to further develop and improve the clinical services we deliver. With that in mind, we would be most grateful for your feedback on the following two questions:

1. What is the most important aspect of the current service you would not like to see changed?

2. What would be the one thing you would like to improve most?

Please write a few short sentences / bullet points and remember to answer with issues that are specific to our GP surgeries.

E-mail – please use the Feedback Function on the Surgery Website at <https://www.capecornwallsurgery.co.uk/>

Post

The Practice Manager,
Cape Cornwall Surgery,
Market Street,
St Just,
Penzance,
TR19 7HX.

The Partners of Cape Cornwall Surgery